

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for removing contaminants from the probe tip of a coordinate measurement machine. The apparatus includes a cleaning chamber and a number of spray nozzles arranged to direct a cleaning solution onto the probe tip from multiple directions. The spray nozzles are adjustable to vary the distance between the head of each nozzle and the probe tip. A photoelectric sensor is provided to detect the presence of the probe tip within the cleaning chamber. A control valve is opened in response to detection of the probe tip to selectively deliver a cleaning fluid to the spray nozzles. A timer selectively controls the commencement and/or the duration of the spray cycle. The cleaning solution preferably comprises a mixture of compressed air and isopropyl alcohol, intermixed by a fluidic mixer. The mixer is preferably adjustable to regulate the amount of isopropyl alcohol intermixed with the compressed air.